



FGIF INBOX - NEWS UPDATES 2021-22

updated on Thursday 30/09/21 at 17:30.

NEW Thursday 30th September- Latest Updates to *FGIF*: WebEd -

***NEW Photo Albums x 11** - WebEd - **Bessacarr FC** (Central Midlands League Division 1N in CML President's Cup Group Stage); **College Wanderers FC** (Scunthorpe & District League Division 1 in the S&DL Challenge Cup Round 1) and **Haltemprice AFC** (East Riding County League Division 2); **Ian Brown - Lydney Town FC** (Hellenic League Premier Division) and **Stonehouse Town FC** (Hellenic League Division 1 West in the FA Vase 1Q); **Steve Hardy - Sportsco FC** (Birmingham & District League Division 1); **Punjab United FC** (Midlands Regional Alliance Division 2) and **Blurton Reds FC** (Staffs County League Division 2) and **Gary Spooner - Saltdean United FC** (Southern Combination Premier in the FA Vase 2Q); **Lossiemouth FC** (Highland Football League in the Scottish Cup 1st Round) and **Campbeltown Pupils FC** (West of Scotland League Division 4). All now added to the *FGIF* Album Gallery.

Gary writes (via E-Mail sent on 26/09/21): *'Petrol was obtained without the need to queue and a protestor free M25 meant that it was the magic of the Vase in the sunny Sussex hills yesterday. Hill Park is a very apt name for the home of Saltdean United and what a cracker of a ground it is! A steep bank allows for excellent elevated viewing of both the match and the surrounding countryside. Printed programmes, badges and food and drink were all available. On the pitch it was not a good afternoon for Saltdean who lead 1-0 after a dour first half. The second half was much better and saw Bridon spring a shock with three well taken goals and book their place in the next round. A trouble-free drive home completed another good day out'.*

...and (via E-Mail sent on 21/09/21): *'First game on my Scotland holiday was at a place I have wanted to go to for years but had never managed to get round to. It was well worth waiting for! Our journey to and from Campbeltown was stunning as were the views from Kintyre Park, home of Campbeltown Pupils who are now in the West of Scotland League after leaving the Scottish Amateur League.*

To celebrate the Pupils first ever senior game a 4-page programme was produced. As there are no plans to produce any more at present, I was grateful to be given a copy of this when I enquired about a programme. I was also grateful that I had a flask and some sandwiches as there was no catering at all. The lack of a programme and catering did not detract from a brilliant ground in a brilliant setting. The game was entertaining as well despite Harmony Row being far superior. They were 5 up before Pupils got 2 back and then

finished the scoring with a late goal to win 6-2 which would have made their 4-hour journey home a happy one! Just under 3 hours for us back to our digs after stopping for an excellent pub meal in Inverary en route. A superb day out!

and (also on 21/09/21): *'Second game on my hols saw me at Grant Park for a Scottish Cup tie between Highland League Lossiemouth and East of Scotland League Preston Athletic. Talking to people beforehand the general consensus was that Lossiemouth would win but the magic of the Cup was all for Preston Athletic as they won comfortably 3-0. £10 admission and no programmes but a free team sheet was given out. Club shop selling shirts etc but no badges. Excellent pie shop with usual fare available. Another cracking day at the seaside'*.

NEW TT Reports x 12 - Steve Hardy - Sportsco FC (Birmingham & District League Division 1); Punjab United FC (Midlands Regional Alliance Division 2) and Blurton Reds FC (Staffs County League Division 2); Keith Aslan - Preston Park FC (Brighton Worthing and District League); Brentford FC (Premier League in EFL Cup) Cassington Rangers FC (Witney & District League Division 2) and Balsall & Berkswell FC (Midland League Division 3); Jon T Green - New Bradwell St Peter FC (Spartan South Midlands League Division 2); Brian Buck - Erpingham United FC (North East Norfolk League Division 1); Deddington Town FC (Banbury District & Lord Jersey FA Premier Division) and Crouch End Vampires FC (Southern Amateur League Senior Division 2) and Craig Dabbs - Milton Keynes College Football Academy FC (Spartan South Midlands League Division 2). All now added to the FGIF Reports & Reviews page for 2021-22.

***NEW Pie & Mushy Peas Weblog x 3 *** - Simple Pieman - Read about the latest visits to Swaffham Town FC (Eastern Counties League Premier Division in the FA Vase 2Q); Buckhurst Hill FC (Eastern Counties League Division 1 South) and Irchester United FC (Spartan South Midlands League Division 1 in the FA Vase 1Q). Click on the link to Steve's Blog for more...

Other Club/Ground News - with thanks to Brian Buck:

Bob Powell (via Brian Buck) writes: *'Sad news from Canterbury City FC. They have asked to withdraw from the Southern Counties East League for financial reasons.*

The Isthmian League had given Guernsey until November 1st to resume playing or they will be expelled from the league. I can't see them playing because of the island's rule of 7 days self-isolation. However, this ban was subsequently lifted, and they will resume playing on October 2nd.

Cheshunt FC. A new 2,000 capacity stadium for Cheshunt FC has been given the green light after developers successfully appealed the council's decision to refuse

planning permission. Alongside the new stadium, Cheshunt Sports Village is expected to include a new health centre, restaurants, cafés and 163 new homes.

The plans will see a major redevelopment of Cheshunt FC's current Theobalds Lane site, which will safeguard the club's future and offer new facilities for the wider community.

In their application, LW Developments said the alternative income streams would "ensure [the club] would not return to the state of financial crisis which nearly led to it folding in recent years".

The new housing will comprise 53 one-bedroom apartments, 62 two-bedroom apartments, 26 three-bedroom houses and 22 four-bedroom houses, with 40 percent of the units earmarked as affordable housing.

The plans are also expected to include a convenience food store, a crèche, and office or meeting space for local businesses. The new community and commercial facilities will be based inside the stadium's longer western block, with the football club based in the north block. The football club will be based in the northern block, with commercial use alongside the western block

The new 2,000 capacity stadium will be slightly smaller than their current 2,180 capacity ground, but include improved facilities on and off the pitch, including new floodlights, a 3G pitch and 1,330 seats. The decision on Cheshunt Sports Village comes five years after plans were first submitted to Broxbourne Borough Council. The developers had originally proposed a stadium with a capacity of 5,192 in 2016, before an amended application was submitted in 2018.

Wealdstone FC. Stones make history in front of a LIVE TV audience. The club writes: 'In celebration of our first LIVE televised home fixture in front of supporters in our lifetime, we are happy to announce that we have reduced admission to just £5 for all tickets for this game.

Wealdstone host Solihull Moors on Tuesday 5th October at 7:45pm in a game that was selected for live BT Sport coverage at the beginning of the season, which will see the Stones perform in front of a global TV audience.

We want a bumper crowd in front of the TV cameras for the fixture to show the watching nation what a fantastic family atmosphere we have at our Grosvenor Vale home and showcase all that is good about Wealdstone Football Club.

As well as our £5 ticket offer, we will also be working with local schools and youth football clubs to provide free tickets for their children.

Tickets are now available to purchase on-line and we encourage all supporters to secure theirs as early as possible. We want to fill The Vale as far as possible for this fixture, so please spread the word to your football-loving friends and family!'

Friday 10th September - Latest Updates to FGIF: WebEd -

Photo Albums x 9 - *Gary Spooner* - **Knowle FC** (Midlands Football League Division 2) and **Little Oakley FC** (Essex Senior League in the FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round); *Ian Brown* - **Meifod FC** (Montgomeryshire League Cup); **Waterloo Rovers FC** (Mid Wales League EL); **Welshpool Town FC** (Ardal League NE) and **Whalley Range FC** (Cheshire League Division 1); *WebEd* - **780 JLC FC** (Central Midlands League Division 1 North); *Steve Hardy* - **Hopwood Swifts FC** (Birmingham & District League Division 5) and *Mark Bembridge* - **FC Edmonton** (Canadian Premier League). All now added to the *FGIF* Album Gallery.

Gary writes (via E-Mail on 31/08): *'A short trip for my bank holiday entertainment at Knowle. Not the most entertaining game but a lot better than on last Saturday. Friendly locals and great value at £3 admission including programme. Knowle had 3 wins from 3 before this game whilst Alcester Town had no wins from 4 though it was an evenly contested game which saw just the one goal from Alcester in the second half'.*

...and (via E-Mail on 05/09): *'It was the magic of the Cup at Little Oakley yesterday. Impressive set up and a very friendly welcome. An excellent programme and badges were available. The match was entertaining with Little Oakley deservedly winning 2-1 to progress to the next round meaning the majority of a bumper attendance of 241 went home happy. Another good day out'.*

TT Reports x 6 - *Brian Buck* - **Silver End United FC** (Essex & Suffolk Border League Division 1); **The 61FC (Luton)** (Spartan South Midlands League Division Two) and **Magna 73 FC** (Leicestershire Senior League Premier Division); *Steve Hardy* - **Hopwood Swifts FC** (Birmingham & District League Division 5); *Keith Aslan* - **Kingsclere FC** (Hampshire Premier League Division 1 North) and *Jon T Green* - **Carlton Town FC** (Northern Premier League Division 1 Midlands). All now added to the *FGIF* Reports & Reviews page for 2021-22.

Pie & Mushy Peas Weblog x 2 - *Simple Pieman* - **Letchworth Garden City Eagles FC** (Spartan South Midlands League Division 1) and **Hednesford Town FC** (Southern League Premier Division in FA Cup 1Q Round). Click on the link to Steve's Blog for more...

Other Club/Ground News - *Brian Buck* writes: **'Biggleswade United FC** (United Counties League Premier Division South) have now recommenced issuing printed programmes this season'.

Monday 30th August - Latest Updates to *FGIF*: *WebEd* -

Photo Albums x 7 - *Steve Ayre* - **Bovingdon FC** (Spartan South Midlands League Division 2); *Ian Brown* - **Llanrwst United FC** (Ardal NW League); *Steve Hardy* - **North Sunderland FC** (Northern Alliance Division 3); *WebEd* - **Grimsby Borough FC**

(Northern Counties East League Premier Division) and **Hull United FC** (Humber Premier League Premier Division) and *Gary Spooner* - **Retford FC** (Northern Counties East League Division 1) and **Rhayader Town FC** (Ardal SE League in the Welsh Amateur Trophy Round 3). All now added to the *FGIF* Album Gallery.

Gary writes (via E-Mail on Sunday 29/08): *'Finally decided on a trip to **Retford FC** yesterday. A cracking setup, beautiful weather and lots of trains hurtling past all made up for a dire game. Ferriby will be happy with the three points, but it was not entertaining to watch!'*

...and (via E-Mail on Sunday 22/08): *'I was back in Wales again yesterday for the customary friendly welcome and another excellent scenic ground. The game was a 3rd round Welsh Trophy game between **Rhyader Town** and CPD Llanefydd which was won 3 - 1 by the visitors to the delight of their fans (see pics!).'*

TT Reports x 5 - *Keith Aslan* - **Dearne & District FC** (Central Midlands League Premier Division North); *Steve Hardy* - **North Sunderland FC** (Northern Alliance Division 3); *Jon T Green* - **Aberbargoed Buds FC** (Ardal Southern League SE Division) and *Brian Buck* - **Earls Barton United FC** (Northants Combination Premier Division) and **Earls Barton United Reserves FC** (Northants Combination Division 2). All now added to the *FGIF* Reports & Reviews page for 2021-22.

Pie & Mushy Peas Weblog x 1 - *Simple Pieman* - **Mulbarton Wanderers FC** (Eastern Counties League Premier Division). Click on the link to Steve's Blog for more...

Other Ground News - *Bob Powell* (via Brian Buck) - **Cambridge City FC**.

'Since our last update, the site continues to develop and take shape around the main grass pitch which has had its first cut and becoming well established.

The road and car park areas surrounding the main stadium and artificial pitch has received tonnes of crushed material in readiness for the base coat of tarmac with kerbstones clearly defining the areas where supporters and visitors will be able to park when visiting. Other areas will house cycle parking and safe pathways for pedestrians.

The area housing the main stand has been excavated ready for its foundation with piling work about to commence ahead of a huge concrete slab foundation being laid to support the structure housing the main clubhouse, changing rooms, offices and hospitality areas - vital for making the club self-sufficient as we progress into this new era.

The black metal fencing has now arrived on site ready to be installed as the pitch perimeter, a modern alternative to the more traditional pitch side fencing seen at football grounds up and down the country. This will not only provide space for local and National businesses to advertise but allow for safe access and egress from the pitch area in the event of an emergency or serious injury.

City Chairman Kevin Satchell said: "Visiting the site now allows you to really visualise the layout and scale of the project. With the last of the 'horizontal' work reaching climax fans will be eager to see the 'vertical' work begin with the erection of the main stadium building, terraces and other structures."

For the latest photos visit us on social media.

Other Ground News - *Neil Harvey* (via Brian Buck) writes - **Cambridgeshire County League Grounds**.

'I have been looking at the Cambridgeshire County League venues now that all the fixtures are out. Spotted the following, (in no particular order):

Debden FC playing at Crabbe Trees in Saffron Walden as per last season

new team **Sawston Lightning FC** playing at Lynton Way Rec in Sawston

AFC Walpole & their reserves playing at Hungate Road in Emneth

Mepal Sports FC have no home fixtures until January, then at Mepal Rec

Hundon FC are playing at Clare Town FC

Orwell FC have left Eddington, now based at Meldreth Rec.

Mildenhall Town Reserves FC at Beck Row Playing Field

Whittlesford United 'A' are playing at Bottisham VC sports centre 3G. There is a viewing area down one side.

Ashdon United FC - were Great Chesterford last season but moved to Ashdon Rec for this season

AFC Ely & Crusaders 2019 FC (both at Witchford VC) - assume that is a 3G pitch?

Kennett FC at the floodlit McLaren Playing Field in Kennett

As on 22/08, **Harston Reserves FC (3A)**, **Kedington FC (3A)** and **Barton Mills FC (3B)** have recently withdrawn from the league'.

Thursday 19th August - Latest Updates to FGIF this week: WebEd -

Photo Albums x 8 - *WebEd* - **Beeston St Anthony's** (West Yorkshire League Premier Division); *Steve Ayre* - **Codicote FC** (Spartan South Midlands League Division 2); *Ian Brown* - **Maghull FC** (West Cheshire League Division 1); **FC St Helens** (Cheshire Football League Premier Division) and **Rossendale FC** (West Lancashire League Division 2); *Steve Hardy* - **Sheerwater FC** (Combined Counties League Premier Division) and **Knaphill FC** (Combined Counties League in the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Replay) and *Gary Spooner* - **Horden Community Welfare FC** (Northern League Division 2). All now added to the *FGIF* Album Gallery.

Gary writes (via E-Mail on Sunday 15/08): 'A trip to another ground with a sea view yesterday!'

As you might expect from a club nicknamed the 'Marras', the welcome at Horden Community Welfare Park was extremely friendly. To emphasise this as I was queueing for a cuppa I was tapped on the shoulder and asked if I would like to take a photo of a presentation that was about to take place on the pitch. I replied that I was not a photographer, just a groundhopper. They knew that but had thought that I would like to take a photo anyway. The presentation was to "Skips" John Bowes who had become the first player to make 100 appearances for Horden Community Welfare since their formation in 2017.

The ground is excellent with loads of room, lots of terracing that doubled up as seating in the heat yesterday and a superb stand. Food, drink and badges were available from the Marras Munchbox and there was a programme as well. The game saw two unbeaten teams go head-to-head with no quarter given by either side in a very competitive and entertaining game. Lots of chances at both ends but just the one goal to Horden in the 64th minute.

The Cobbs won again to complete another excellent day out'.

TT Reports x 5 - *Brian Buck* - **Long Bennington FC** (Notts Senior League Division 2 South); *Steve Hardy* - **Sheerwater FC** (Combined Counties League Premier Division) and **Knaphill FC** (Combined Counties League in the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Replay) and *Keith Aslan* - **Woodford Town FC** (Essex Senior League) and **Rushcliffe Ravens FC** (Notts Senior League Division 2 North). All now added to the *FGIF Reports & Reviews* page for 2021-22.

Pie & Mushy Peas Weblog x 2 - *Simple Pieman* - **AFC Wimledon** (Football League Division 1) and **Woodford Town FC** (Essex Senior League). Click on the link to Steve's Blog for more...

Friday 13th August - Latest Updates to FGIF this week: WebEd -

Photo Albums x 6 - *Ian Brown* - **Newton FC** (West Cheshire League Division 1) and **Garswood United FC** (Cheshire Football League Premier Division); *WebEd* - **North Ferriby United FC** (Northern Counties East League in the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Replay) and **Thackley AFC** (Northern Counties East League in the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round); *Steve Ayre* - **Harpenden Town FC** (Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division in the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round) and *Gary Spooner* - **Penmaenmawr Phoenix FC** (North Wales Coast East Football League in the Welsh Amateur Trophy Round 2). All now added to the *FGIF Album Gallery*.

Gary writes: 'Yesterday I headed to North Wales in the company of fellow FGIF pixel merchant Mr Brown and Spongebob. The weather en route was dreadful though thankfully the torrential rain had stopped, and the sun was shining, when we arrived at Cae Sling, home of Penmaenmawr Phoenix, to see a Welsh Amateur Trophy 2nd Round tie against Menai Bridge Tigers.

Having dodged some sheep to park the car we entered the ground where Spongebob was delighted that it was free admission for OAPs. Adult admission was very reasonable at £3. There was no programme, but plans are afoot for an online edition at some point. I enquired about badges and was told they were not

available, but the chairmen then said he would find some which he duly did from a cabin which is to become the club shop.

Cae Sling has an excellent clubhouse with plenty of outdoor seating. There is a café that serves meals along with usual matchday fare including excellent coffee in proper mugs. There is the "Phoenix Fun Bus" for children which has a tele and an air hockey table and complements the outdoor play area complete with trampoline. Great facilities for all the family! The ground itself is set in absolute stunning scenery with both sea and mountain views. Quite simply the photos do not do it justice. Definitely a must visit for all hoppers!!

Having been blown away by the welcome, the facilities and the scenery the game did not disappoint either. In the first half Phoenix took the lead and then Tigers equalised before Phoenix scored the goal of the goal with a belting shot from distance (see album nos. 22 & 23). Tigers equalised again and it was 2 all at half time which saw Spongebob buying the coffees as he got free admission! I'm sure I saw tears but that may have been because Dundee United had beaten Spongebob's Scottish team in the early SPFL game. Half time also saw the appearance of Phoenix giving away lollipops to the great delight of all the children present. The second half saw some heavy rain, some heavy tackles and a cracking cup tie which wasn't settled until late on when Tigers scored their final goal in a 4-2 win. The day out was capped on the way home with news that the Cobbs had won. Superb day out!!!!!!!'

TT Reports x 4 - *Brian Buck* - **Hockering FC** (Central & South Norfolk League Division 1); *Jon T Green* - **Kenilworth Sporting FC** (Midland Football League Division 2); *Gary Spooner* - **Penmaenmawr Phoenix FC** (North Wales Coast East Football League in the Welsh Amateur Trophy Round 2) and *Keith Aslan* - **Gillingham FC** (Western Football League Division 1). All now added to the **FGIF Reports & Reviews** page for 2021-22.

Pie & Mushy Peas Weblog x 1 - *Simple Pieman* - **Whittlesey Athletic FC** (Eastern Counties League Division 1 North). See his Blog for more.

Wednesday 4th August - Latest Updates to **FGIF** this week: *WebEd* -

Photo Albums x 3 - *Ian Brown* - **Eagle Sports FC** (Cheshire League) and **Llay Miners Welfare FC** (Ardal North West League) and *Gary Spooner* - **Holywell Town FC** (Cymru North). All now added to the **FGIF Album Gallery**.

Gary writes: 'Yesterday saw a trip to Holywell Town where the opposition were Buckley Town. Excellent ground and a cracking match which saw Holywell 2-0 up and cruising with an hour played only for Buckley to score on 62 and 70 to draw level and plunder a winner in the 88th minute. Another corking day out. Long may they continue!'

*New **TT Reports x 2*** - *Jon T Green* - **Bacup Borough FC** (North West Counties League Division One North) and *Keith Aslan* - **Rhostyllen FC** (Ardal North West League). Both now added to the **FGIF Reports & Reviews** page for 2021-22.

**New WebEds Ramblings* - WebEd writes: 'Sadly I will have to wait a bit longer for my hopping season to start. Alas my trip to Thackley FC on Saturday (31st July) was a complete disaster. After an enforced nine-month break from watching live football (mostly due to Covid and the fact I don't do friendlies), I was obviously very keen to get back to hopping (my first game of 2021) and headed out in eager anticipation to West Yorkshire for the NCEL match vs Goole kicking off at 3pm. I really couldn't wait to get there. With plenty of time to spare and with back-ups along the route (at Albion Sports FC and Ilkley FC) I was making great time until coming to a standstill in heavy traffic. It was along the Leeds ring road, right by Elland Road. As much as I admire the superb ground and facilities at LUFC, waiting for thirty minutes and looking at its main stand in a grid locked jam, is not that much fun. After half an hour I set off again, still with time to spare, before coming to a second halt caused by some roadworks near to Shipley. Despite being only five miles from the ground this was the only available route to get there and there was no way of doing a U-turn to get moving again. A kind pedestrian (who lived locally) told me the roadworks had been ongoing for six months and was causing absolute chaos in the area. She said that it would take at least 45 minutes to get through them. It did but by now it was 3.20pm. I couldn't believe it and was totally gutted to say the least! Out of all the games that I could have chosen to watch (or not in this case), my season will just have to wait another week to get started. If there is any consolation it gave the car a good run out for the first time in weeks. I can see the appeal that public transport offers on days like this!!'*

Monday 26th July - Latest Updates to FGIF this week: WebEd -

Photo Albums x 1 - Gary Spooner - Ardeer Thistle FC (West of Scotland League Conference B). Now added to the FGIF Album Gallery.

Gary writes: 'Long trip to Scotland yesterday in the trusty automobile dubbed the "hot tin can" by Dr Doom. No German technology required to keep us cool as opening all the windows (Boris says ventilation, ventilation, ventilation) and no hold ups meant we travelled safely and in comfort despite the blazing sun outside. Our destination was the Ardeer Stadium where Ardeer Thistle were entertaining Port Glasgow. Thistle had won 2 from 2 and ended the day with the only 100% record in their division though they twice had to come from behind after trailing 0-1 and 1-2. Highly competitive game and great entertainment in baking hot conditions. Credit to both sides!'

TT Reports x 1 - Keith Aslan - Cuxton 91 FC (Kent County League. Now added to the FGIF Reports & Reviews page for 2021-22.

Monday 19th July - New Weblog Update: Simple Pieman - Links to the excellent **Pie & Mushy Peas** weblog (edited by super Spurs' fan Steve Dobson) have now been added to the FGIF Home Page. Readers can now access details from Steve's latest visits at the touch of a button. So far, the weblog has covered games from the following clubs: **Pitstone & Ivinghoe FC** (Spartan South Midlands League) **Peckham Town FC** (Kent County League) **Littlehampton Town FC** (Southern Combination League) **Atherstone Town FC** (Midland Football League). We hope

that you enjoy reading more club and ground news and reviews over the coming season.

Monday 19th July - Latest Updates to FGIF this week: WebEd -

Photo Albums x 4 - Ian Brown - Elton Vale FC (Manchester League) and **Littletown FC** (Yorkshire Amateur League); **Steve Hardy - Berks County FC** (Combined Counties League) and **Gary Spooner - Y Felinheli FC** (Welsh Alliance). All added to the FGIF Album Gallery.

Gary writes: *'Glorious sunshine and glorious scenery in Wales yesterday for a Welsh Amateur Trophy 1st Round game between Y Felinheli and Llanystumdwy. Despite Doctor Doom predicting hordes of 'stay at home' holiday makers gridlocking the A55 and preventing arrival before kick-off we had no problems and arrived in good time for a pre match coffee overlooking boats bobbing on the Menai Straits. From there it was a two- minute drive to Cae Seilo, home of Y Felinheli and the customary friendly welcome. No paper programmes but an online edition and badges were available from the tearbar. The ground is very picturesque being surrounded by trees and has a marked slope down to the entrance. There is a seated covered stand, but this was out of bounds to spectators yesterday. It was being used as the away team changing room as due to FAW regulations clubs cannot currently use changing rooms. The game ended 4-0 to Y Felinheli. They were simply too good for Llanystumdwy who play 2 divisions lower. Decent entertainment in the heat. On the way home we stopped at Penmaenmawr to eat our sandwiches overlooking the sea. Penmaenmawr Phoenix FC is definitely earmarked for a visit later in the season. Excellent day out!'*

TT Reports x 3 - Steve Hardy - Berks County FC (Combined Counties League); **Mark Jones - Prestatyn Sports FC** (Welsh Alliance) and **Brian Buck - Duxford United FC** (Cambs County League). All added to the FGIF Reports & Reviews page for 2021-22.

Tuesday 13th July - Important Website Update: WebEd - Due to technical problems involving the operating system on my personal laptop, I have been unable to provide updates for several weeks. Since recovering all the important data these issues have been resolved and I am pleased to say that all the outstanding news, photos and TT reports sent in by our dedicated team of contributors (dating back to 24/05/21) have now been added to FGIF.

Tuesday 13th July - Latest Updates to FGIF this week: WebEd -

Photo Albums x 7 - Furness Vale FC; Bamford FC; Fairfield FC and Ellesmere Port FC (all Ian Brown); **Newbury FC** (Craig Dabbs); **Prestatyn Sports FC** (Mark Jones) and **Cleethorpes Town FC** (Gary Spooner).

Gary writes: *'It really has been far too long!! At last, I've managed to take some pics at a footie game. Yesterday saw me with camera in hand at the Myenergi*

Stadium for a Lincolnshire Senior Cup Preliminary Round game between holders Cleethorpes Town and Stamford. I do love a trip to the seaside. It was a decent game as well which Cleethorpes looked to have won when they scored an 82nd minute penalty. However, Stamford snatched victory from the jaws of defeat when they equalised in the 92nd minute and won the penalty shootout 5-3. Wonder if that will be only penalty shoot-out that I watch this weekend? It was good to be back watching footie and taking pics and the 12.30 kick off meant I was back home in good time for my favourite dinner’.

TT Reports x 20 - Brereton Social FC and Watlington Sports & Social FC (both Jon T Green); Albury FC; Allenburys Sports FC; Yaxham FC; Cambridge University Cuppers Cup Final; Coventrians FC; Shelford & Stapleford Strikers FC; Marlow United FC; Notley FC and Sheering FC (all Brian Buck); Arthur Dunn Cup Final; Maidenhead Town FC; York City FC (new LNER Stadium); Rochester United FC and Reading YMCA FC (all Keith Aslan); Epping FC; Newbury FC; Henley Town FC and Reading YMCA (all Craig Dabbs).

Thursday 8th July - Latest News - Prestatyn Sports FC: *Mark Jones - ‘The North Wales resort town of Prestatyn hasn’t seen a new football ground (or any kind of major sports facility for that matter) since 1969 when Prestatyn Town moved a couple of hundred yards from their old Bastion Road ground, tucked away behind a large and imposing nursing home, to their present site on Bastion Gardens.*

But 2020 saw Prestatyn Sports - relative newcomers to the scene having only been formed in 2010 - move into their long-awaited new facility on The Meadows, a project that has been some seven years in the making and seen a lot of blood, sweat and tears shed along the way.

Sports had previously played their games in nearby Gronant village but the public pitch and infrastructure left much to be desired with matters coming to a head in October 2017 when Caersws refused to play a Welsh Cup tie there claiming the facilities were ‘inadequate and dangerous’ forcing Sports to withdraw from the competition.

The club then launched a major series of improvements which saw them rail off the pitch, radically overhaul the dressing rooms and generally tidy the area up.

A couple of years later, the political restructuring of Welsh football dealt them another blow when Gronant, which is geographically in Flintshire, was deemed to fall under the jurisdiction of the North-East Wales FA meaning Sports would have to quit the North Wales Coast FA and join one of NEWFA’s leagues which would have trebled their travelling distances and also their costs.

Thankfully, sense was seen and Sports were allowed to remain in the Coastal set up and the decision spurred them on to find a new home in Denbighshire where they had already identified the Meadows as a preferred option.

After years of wrangling with planners, local residents, grant funding authorities and the like, permission to go ahead and develop the site was given in 2019 and 12 months later the Meadows was ready to host games (until the pandemic stuck its oar in and scuppered everything for everybody),

The ground is very rural and very verdant being surrounded by open land and lying in the shadow of the hills that provide a backdrop to the town.

Fully railed off with dugouts, the main structure at the ground is a large vandal-proof cabin housing impressive dressing rooms and showers for players and officials, an equipment store and Davey's Tea Bar which provides matchday refreshments.

Everything is painted dark green which blends in with the surroundings nicely and contrast is provided by signage in Sports' red and white colours.

There is no hard standing or cover at the moment (though both are planned for the future) so this is one of those grounds best visited in early or late season when the Welsh weather is better.

Reaching The Meadows is a bit of a trek from the town's railway station (a good 45-minute walk at least presuming you know where you are heading) so the best option for non-motorists is to pick up a bus for Meliden from the central bus station and alight near the Miners Arms pub from where The Meadows can be reached in five minutes via Roundwood Avenue. A taxi from Prestatyn station to the ground will set you back around £5 or so.

Both the Miners Arms and the nearby Red Lion serve excellent pub grub and have a choice of real ales while Meliden village itself has a very decent Chinese chippy and a large Spar convenience store - these are the nearest facilities to the ground so fill up or stock up before the match is my advice!

If you are driving to The Meadows, please be aware that parking is very limited and Roundwood Avenue doesn't offer much in the way of places to pull up, being quite rural with no pavements for much of its length.

I am happy to offer help with any advice or local information to hoppers wanting to visit Sports so feel free to drop me a text or call me on 07753 966805. Diolch yn fawr iawn pawb! Mwynhau!'

Thursday 8th July - Updated Football Programme Database: Steve Hardy.

The excellent **UK Non-League Football Club Programme Database** has now been fully updated to include all known issuers up to the end of the curtailed 2020-21 season. Details cover all club entries in English; Scottish; Welsh; Northern Irish; Ladies; Schools and Sunday football. As always, we are indebted to Steve Hardy for his enthusiasm and pain-staking research in compiling the database. Following the link from the Programmes menu tab for more...

COMING SOON- Check out Simple Pieman's travels from the excellent **Pie and Mushy Peas** weblog (*Steve Dobson*) and some of the early TT reports from the new season will follow in due course...

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH All the above updates mostly relate to the last (curtailed) 2020-21 season. I kindly ask all contributors to check that the info posted is both complete and correct. If there are any outstanding photos or reviews that have been omitted or still need posting, get in touch. I will begin to add further updates, including those for the NEW SEASON (2021-22), in the coming days. Please get in touch - use the *Contact Page* to find out more.

End